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The Jamestown Fiasco.

The managers of the Jamestown Exposition are not talking as loudly about the "enticing splendors of war" as they did before the Exposition opened. In the last [April] number of the *Jamestown Magazine* before the Exposition began, the proposed military and naval features were advertised in the same extravagant, childish and vulgar phraseology as in previous issues. Here are some of the extraordinary sentences:

"Would you see the choicest battleships, cruisers, torpedo boats, etc., of the nations of the world swinging at anchor or passing in review in battle array on the bosom of Hampton Roads in front of the Jamestown Exposition, from whence echoes from the 'Merrimac' and 'Monitor' were heard in every clime? Would you see this greatest of Armadas bedecked in its holiday attire in honor of the arrival of an Admiral Togo and listen to the reverberations of its thundering, earth-shaking welcome? Then come to the Jamestown Exposition. . . . Would you see the pick of the world's fighters on foot, in saddle and on caisson? Would you hear the hoof-beat of cavalry, the clash of sabre, the thundering of artillery rushing into action, the tramp, tramp, tramp of deploying thousands in support of the van, the shrieking of fifes and the rolling of drums, the fluttering of colors, the shrill notes of bugle calls, echoes of '76 and '61? Then come to the Jamestown Exposition. . . . Would you feel the thrill of battle on hallowed ground? Would you feel the presence of the greatest

living commanders of armies and navies? Would you feel the satisfaction of having seen the greatest naval, military and historical exhibition ever created? Then come to the Jamestown Exposition."

If the reports that come to us from Norfolk are to be believed, promise and fulfillment were never farther apart. The promised Big Show, the biggest that men ever set eyes on, has dwindled down to a very insignificant display, resembling a sideshow of a country fair, of which the Rhetoric of the *Jamestown Magazine* is probably thoroughly ashamed. The people have not been "enticed." There has been nothing to entice them, even if they were willing to be enticed. Even the United States government display is reported to be only of the dimensions of a single regiment. Many of the States have declined to send regiments of militia to participate in the show. The people have not gone in great numbers. They have, doubtless, been disgusted at the attempt to seduce the minds of the youth of the nation to uphold a barbarous and cruel system, of which sensible men in all countries are fast becoming ashamed. There has been less said about the Exposition in the papers, and less interest shown in it on the part of the public, than in any Exposition which we remember.

What has brought the "greatest military and naval exhibition ever created" down to its paltry actual dimensions? Possibly the promoters of the Exposition never meant what they said to be taken as anything but a bill-board advertisement. If that was the case — and we confess that the whole situation has suggested the thought — they have probably realized to their sorrow that the American people, however simple-minded and gullible they may be in some directions, have gotten a few stages beyond the silly savage state of childish delight in the "enticing splendors of war," in which the official organ of the Exposition assumed them still to be.

It is, at any rate, a matter of profound satisfaction that the huge, gaudy bubble has burst. Our country has thus been saved from a lasting shame, from a conspicuous, practical denial of itself, its history and its ideals. We regret, of course, that the Exposition could not have made the noble and instructive exhibition that it ought to have made of the extraordinary growth and prosperity, the intellectual, moral and political advancement of the nation in the three hundred years since the first settlement. But if that has been made impossible, as now seems certain, the insane attempt at the greatest military and